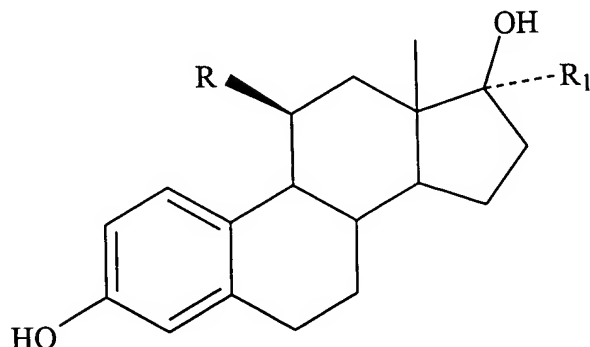


In the Claims:

The previously amended claims are presented as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A compound according to the chemical structure:



Where R is a $-(CH_2)_n \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} Y R^1$ group, a $-(CH_2)_n Y \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} R^2$ group, a $-(CH_2)_n \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} R^3$ group, or a $-(CH_2)_n X R^4$ group,

R¹, R² and R³ are each independently a C₁-C₆ linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group;

R⁴ is a C₃-C₆ linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group;

R₁ is H, CH₃, a vinyl group (-CH=CH₂), or an ethynyl group (-C≡CH);

X is O or S and Y is O, and

n is from 1 to 3.

2. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is an ester or thioester group and R¹ and R² are each independently a C₁-C₅ linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O and R₁ is an ethynyl group.

5. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is an ester group and n is 1, and R¹ and R² have at least two carbon atoms.

6. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is a keto, thioketo, ether or thioether group, n is 1, and R³ and R⁴ have at least three carbon atoms.

Claims 7-12. Cancelled.

13. (Original) A method of treating the symptomology of menopause in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective of a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said symptomology is osteoporosis.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said symptomology is high blood levels of cholesterol and/or LDL.

16. (Original) A method of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in a menopausal patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to said patient.

17. (Previously presented) A method of treating a breast cancer patient in need thereof, said method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to said patient.

18. (Previously presented) A method of reducing the likelihood that breast cancer will recur in a patient where recurrence of breast cancer is likely, said method comprising administering to said patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

19. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

20. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

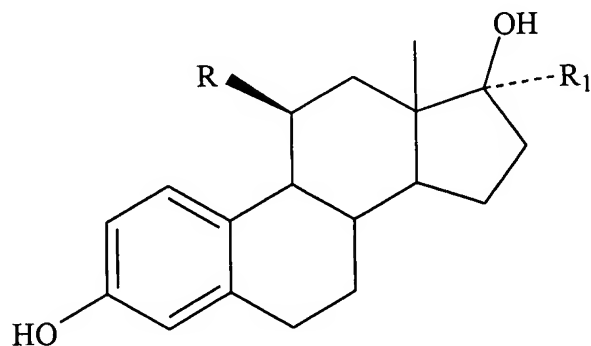
21. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 3 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

22. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 4 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 5 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

24. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 6 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

25. (Previously presented) A compound according to the chemical structure:



Where R is a $-(CH_2)_nXR^4$ group,

R^4 is a C_3-C_6 linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group when n is 1, R^4 is a C_2-C_6 linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group when n is 2 and R^4 is a C_1-C_6 linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group when n is 3;

R_1 is H, CH_3 , a vinyl group ($-CH=CH_2$), or an ethynyl group ($-C\equiv CH$);

X is O or S and Y is O, and

n is 1, 2 or 3.

26. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 25 wherein X is O.

27. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 25 wherein X is O and R₁ is an ethynyl group.

28. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 25 wherein R⁴ has at least two carbon atoms.

29 (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 25 wherein R⁴ has at least three carbon atoms.

30 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

31 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 26 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

32 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 27 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

33. (Previously presented) A method of treating the symptomology of menopause in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective of a compound according to claim 25.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33 wherein said symptomology is osteoporosis.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33 wherein said symptomology is high blood levels of cholesterol and/or LDL.

36. (Previously presented) A method of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in a menopausal patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25 to said patient.

37. (Previously presented) A method of treating a breast cancer patient in need thereof with an agent to which said cancer favorably responds, said method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25 to said patient.

38. (Previously presented) A method of reducing the likelihood that breast cancer will recur in a patient where a recurrence of breast cancer is likely, said method comprising administering to said patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25.